



# Burglary of Motor Vehicles

Crime Prevention Unit

# Texas Penal Code Definition



## Sec. 30.04. BURGLARY OF VEHICLES.

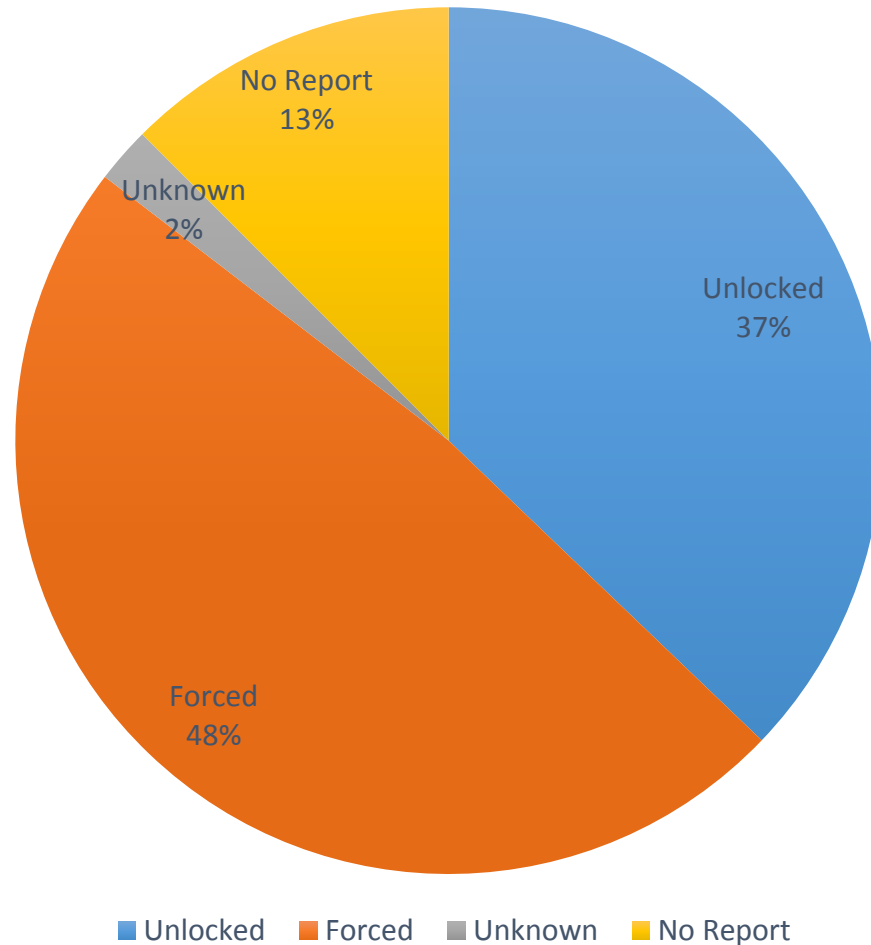
- (a) A person commits an offense if, without the effective consent of the owner, he breaks into or enters a vehicle or any part of a vehicle with intent to commit any felony or theft.
- (b) For purposes of this section, "enter" means to intrude:
  - (1) any part of the body; or
  - (2) any physical object connected with the body.

This is a **Class A Misdemeanor**

# Burglary of Motor Vehicle Stats



Method of Entry



January 1, 2017 – Current

Unlocked Vehicles	107
Forced Entry	139
Unknown	6
No Report	36

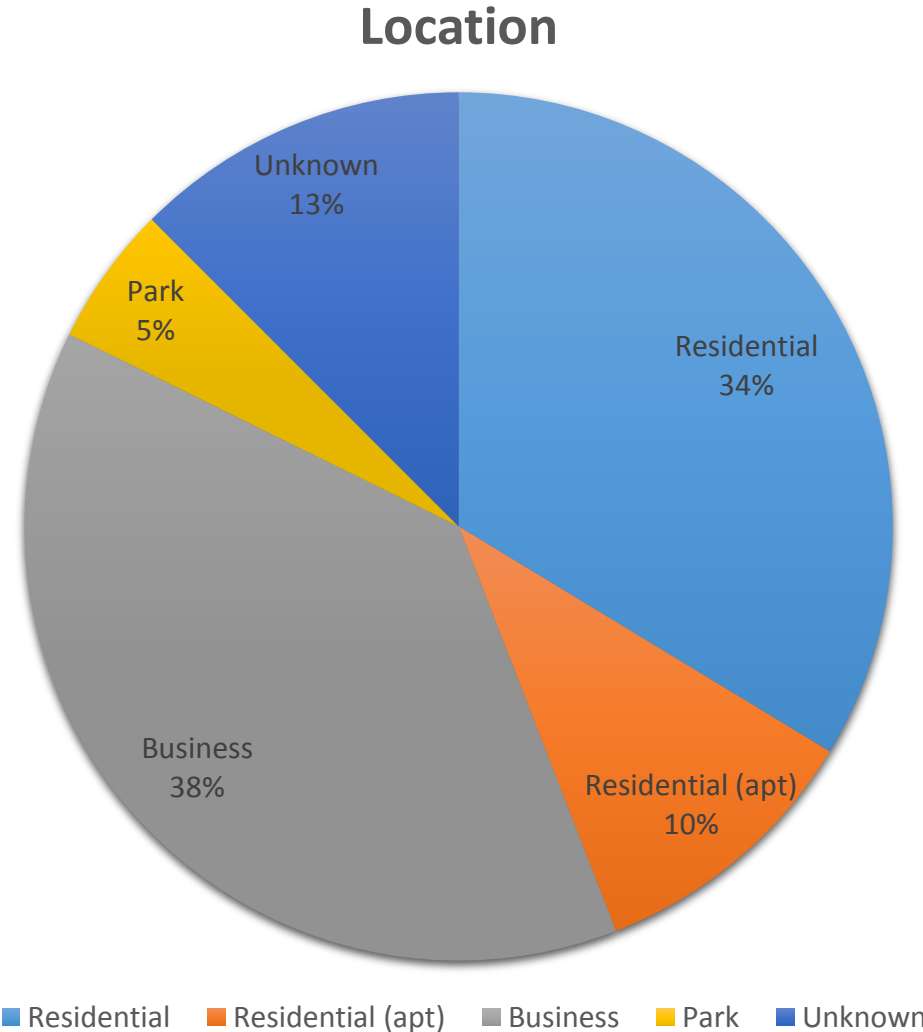
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Total	288
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# Burglary of Motor Vehicle Stats

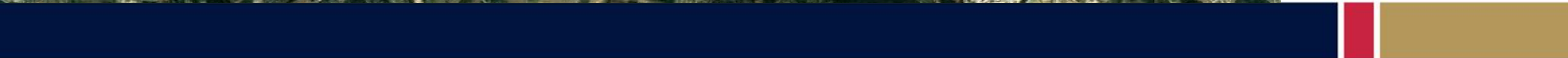
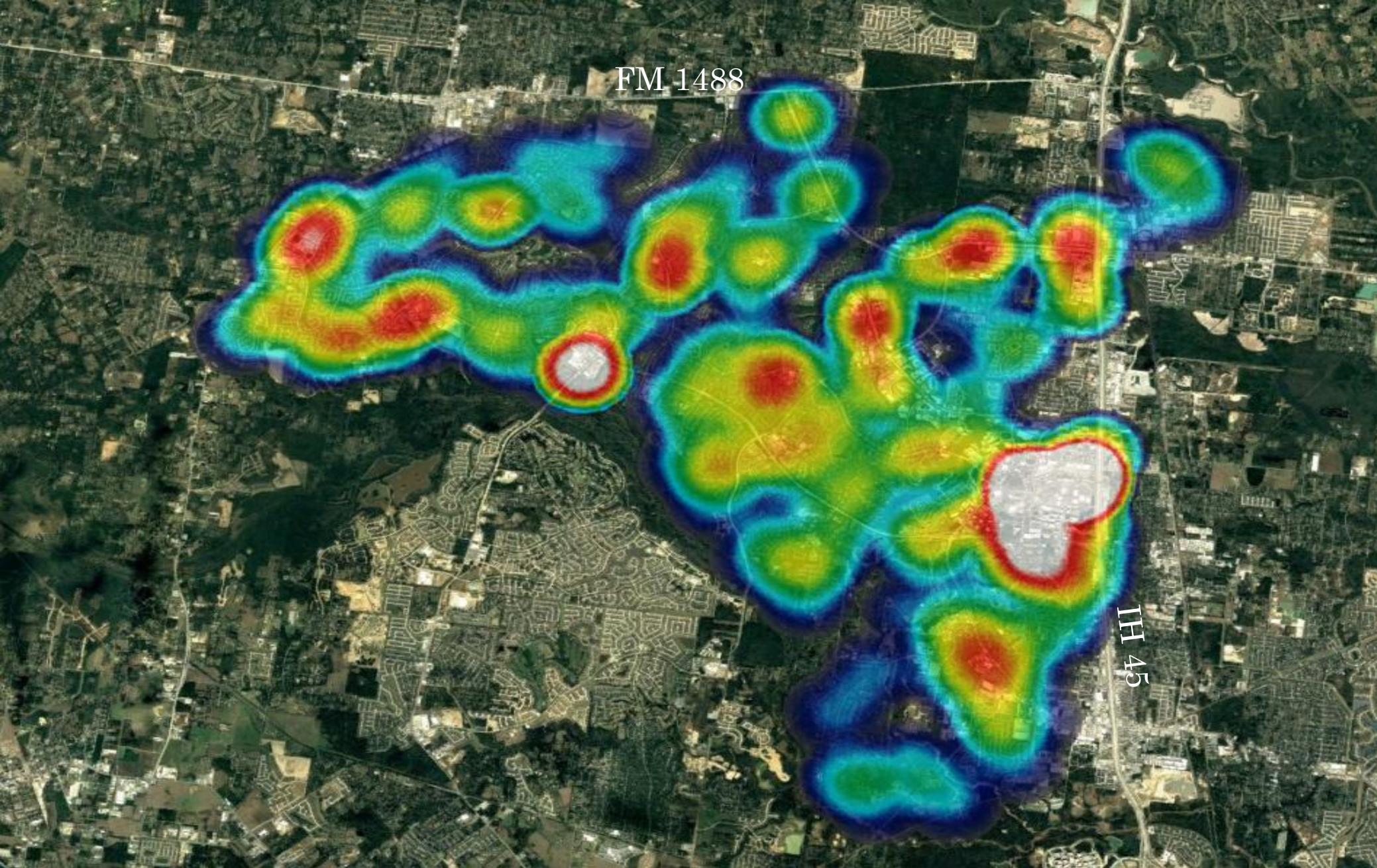


January 1, 2017 – Current



Residential	97
Residential (Apt)	30
Businesses	110
Parks	15
Unknown	36
<hr/>	
Total	288







# What burglars look for

- Vehicles containing visible valuable items
- Easy access, unlocked vehicles
- After market radios
- Vehicles parked with least amount of visibility







# Tips to Prevent Vehicle Burglaries



- Don't leave valuables in your car. That sounds like "common sense" but drivers/passengers do leave items of value in plain view every day. If you leave valuable items visible in your car, your car is automatically a target. Thieves are targeting purses, laptops, GPS units and MP3 players, which are easily sold.
- Additionally, computers, purses, and wallets are highly desired targets that are stolen to commit identity theft.







- If you must leave valuable items in your car while out and about, place items out of sight before reaching your destination or move them inconspicuously. Someone may be watching when you put items under a seat or throw something over them. An opportunistic thief is on the lookout for trunk-packing, and can break into your car the minute you're out of sight.
- Never open a trunk, fill it full of valuables, close it, and then just walk away. If so, move your vehicle to another location incase someone is watching.
- Once home, unload your valuables immediately. Do not store valuables in your car any longer than necessary, and certainly never overnight.

- If possible, leave no trace. Don't leave any "sign" that there might be valuables "out of sight" in your vehicle, such as docking stations or connector cables. It may entice a burglar to check your car for "hidden" valuables.
- If you have an after-market stereo/CD-player with a removable faceplate, remove it. Without the faceplate, the unit is less attractive/useful to many thieves, and harder to sell. If the unit can be pulled, pull it! Take it with you. Just covering a valuable radio (or ANY valuables in your car) with something (like a blanket or towel) to hide it will probably only draw thieves' attention.





- Try to park in busy, well-traveled areas and well-lighted areas. Large anonymous lots are hit by thieves much more often than parking immediately adjacent to residential housing or other occupied buildings. Auto-burglars prefer breaking into cars where they will not be observed or attract attention, and choose their targets accordingly.
- Lock ALL your vehicle's doors even if you plan to be gone for only a brief time. Every month, we have items stolen from unlocked vehicles where the owner was only going to be gone "just for a second." It only takes seconds to steal your stuff! It's not at all uncommon for thieves to walk down a row of parked vehicles and check vehicle doors to see if they are unlocked.







- Set any alarm or anti-theft device. If you have one, use it! Many people believe that car-alarms no longer make a difference, but they can be an effective deterrent to an auto-burglar, who most often chooses the easiest target. If they have two cars to choose from, one with a visible indicator of an alarm system and one without, they will likely burglarize the one without (unless you've left out valuables just too good to ignore!)
- Don't think your dark tinted windows will hide your valuables. Thieves often use flashlights or cell phone cameras to see through tint.



# If you become a victim



- What do you do if something is stolen out of your car? As soon as you notice something's stolen (or that your car has been broken into) *do not touch/adjust anything in, on, or around the car*. As soon as possible, call the police department having jurisdiction for the location the car is parked at to report the incident.

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Non Emergency number  
**936-442-7797**



# The Aftermath



## Assess and Record the Damage (AFTER the crime scene has been processed)

- Start documenting the details of the break-in from the outside.
- Take pictures of the windows, doors, trunk, tires, and any visibly damaged areas of the car.
- In addition to taking pictures, make a written document. List the damages done to the car, as well as anything that may have been stolen from the vehicle. Be sure to include serial numbers if they are available

# Curb Identity Theft and Cancel Credit Cards



- One of the biggest risks resulting from a car break-in is identity theft. If a perpetrator gets ahold of your name, birthday, and/or Social Security number, they might have everything needed to steal your identity.
- Contact one of the top three credit bureaus — Equifax, TransUnion, and Experian — to place a fraud alert on your account.
- Additionally, if you notice your credit or debit cards were taken during the break-in, immediately alert your bank to the theft. A bank representative can help you identify any fraudulent charges, cancel the stolen cards, and request new cards.

# Who to Contact



Equifax	1.800.545.6285	<a href="http://www.equifax.com">www.equifax.com</a>
Experian	1.888.397.3742	<a href="http://www.experian.com">www.experian.com</a>
Trans Union	1.800.680.7289	<a href="http://www.transunion.com">www.transunion.com</a>
Consumer Protection Division Office of Attorney General	1.800.621.0508	
Federal Trade Commission	1.877.438.4338	



# How Do They Do It?



# Window Punches and Slim Jim's





A Video Was Shown.



# Lock Punches, Picks, and Jigglers





A Video Was Shown.

# Cloned Key Fobs



Police believe the thieves used a mystery device, sometimes called a code grabber or a key fob amplifier, to steal the code from the couple's key fobs, which were inside the house.

A Video Was Shown.




# Report Suspicious Activity



"Suspicious Activity" would include:

- Persons walking up and down aisles of parking lots looking into cars or trying door handles
- Vehicles cruising parking lots at very slow speeds for extended periods while observing parked cars
- Persons making any kind of mark or placing anything ON parked vehicles
- Persons sitting in running parked cars for long periods
- Vehicles dropping one person off while continuing to cruise the same area. We'd prefer to check on an innocent citizen going about their business than to not check and end up taking theft-from-vehicle reports.
- BE ALERT, BE AWARE, and be prepared to BE A GOOD WITNESS

**Deputy Kellie Christiansen**  
kellie.christiansen@mctx.org  
(281)-297-6523



**Deputy Stephanie Coroiescu**  
stephanie.coroiescu@mctx.org  
(281)-297-6538

**District 6 Office – 9200 Grogan’s Mill Road, The Woodlands, TX**

**936-442-7797**

**Sheriff’s Office Website – [www.mctxsheriff.org](http://www.mctxsheriff.org)**